Brooklyn, March 15, 1836.

My dear brother George:

10 You have doubtless been wondering why I have not yet made my appearance in Providence, as I told bro. Goodell last week that I should return to this village via P. in a few days. My reasons for altering my purpose were these: – I found that bro. Henry was in a miserable state of health, not having fully recovered from the ill attack which he experienced a few weeks since. He was troubled with indigestion, his head was occasionally giddy, his lungs were somewhat affected, and in the course of the day he would experience several shivering fits, which were succeeded by a dry feverish heat. – Still, he attempted to perform the arduous duties of the office, as usual, and did not readily seem disposed to give up. After much entreaty, however, on the part of Mr. May, Mr. Knapp, myself, and other friends, he was at last persuaded to accompany me to Brooklyn, that he might be withdrawn from the cares and bustle of the city, and have the kind, endearing attentions of his parents and sisters. We at first concluded to go via Providence on Saturday; but as it seemed desirable, for Henry's sake, that we should arrive in Brooklyn as soon as practicable, and as we found that we could get through on Saturday via Worcester, we accordingly changed our minds, took that course, and reached home about half past 6, P. M. The weather had changed suddenly, and was severely cold, from the effects of which Henry suffered considerably, but more particularly from the badness of the travelling between Worcester and Brooklyn, which was fatiguing enough even to a person in health, much more to an invalid. Soon after his arrival, Henry went to bed, and has not left it since, except for a couple of hours yesterday. Dr. Whitcomb is administering to his necessities, and as he is a little better, we hope he will be so much restored in all this week as to be able to walk about the premises. He must be very careful of his health hereafter, for I think he is predisposed to a consumptive habit, although he is not in any danger at present. So much confinement as he has had in Boston, has unquestionably been injurious to him; and he ought to rusticate many weeks here, before he returns to the city.

I was glad to find that every member of the family was well, on my return. Helen, for the first time since her confinement, came down stairs and dined with us yesterday. The babe seems to be perfectly well, is remarkably quiet, and grows finely. He has no lack of attendants, and, like his father, is already largely indebted on the score of kindnesses to those around him. We think he is a pretty child, of *course*: for was there ever a first-born child that was not pretty in the eyes of affectionate parents? But we do not think that he is *quite* so pretty as was your little Anna at the same age: so you and Catharine need not be jealous. The conformation of his head is very much like mine, but I do not think his features resemble those of either of his parents, or any of the family. A few weeks are needed yet, to develope and establish them. It is his moral image about which I feel the most solicitude. May he early learn to put on Christ, that he may be made perfect in righteousness, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing!

Bro. Goodell has told you, no doubt, the results of his visit to Boston — a visit which was very opportune, and highly serviceable to the cause of human rights. Our abolition friends were all delighted to see and hear him. In the interview we had with the legislative committee, he spoke exceedingly well, better than any body else, and was for that very reason more insolently treated by the chairman of the committee than any of our number, not excepting even Prof. Follen. He drew up a very able defence of the principles and measures of the abolitionists, which was adopted by our abolition committee, and is now probably in the hands of the members of the Legislature, in a pamphlet form. Since he left, our Society sent in another memorial to the Legislature, setting forth that our rights had been disregarded as freemen, that the committee would not suffer us to be fully heard in self-defence, and remonstrating afresh against the passage of any law or resolutions in derogation of anti-slavery men or measures. — In the Senate, the memorial was laid upon the table. In the House of Representatives, as soon as it was read, Mr. Whalley of Boston, (a member of Dr. Beecher's church, I am told, and a hot-headed colonizationist,) rose and moved, that it be not received by the House! falsely and furiously declaring, that it was insulting in its language, and that it was pre-judging the committee — &c. &c. This bold attempt to kick the memorial out of the chamber, and to trample under foot the sacred right of petition and remonstrance, excited the strongest general indignation among the members. It made at once many abolition converts, and was overruled for good, great and lasting good. A very spirited debate ensued, in the course of which, Mr. Whalley received a severe castigation, and stood alone in his infamous proposition. That debate was worth more than a thousand dollars to our cause. George Blake of Boston, (though opposed to the abolitionists,) said that our fundamental principles were incontrovertible; that slavery could not long continue in our land; that it stood on the same level with the Gentoo sacrifices; and that he did not believe a man, or any body of men, could be found in that assembly, who would dare to propose any law, or any resolutions, censuring the anti-slavery society, or any other. Mr. Rantoul of Gloucester, Mr. Foster of Brimfield, Mr. Hillard of Boston, Mr. Longley of —, all spoke in favor of our rights — also Mr. Ward of Danvers, and Mr. Durfee of Fall River. Mr. Durfee said he was proud to acknowledge himself as one of the proscribed abolitionists, and he thanked God that he stood where he could vindicate his own rights and the rights of others. A motion was now made to lay our memorial upon the table — ayes 204, noes 216. It was then referred to the committee. The next day a warm debate ensued in the Senate. I cherish strong hopes that our Legislature will pass no resolutions against us — a gag law is out of the question. Massachusetts is still the sheet anchor of our country. -

I hope you will send me the proceedings of the R. I. Convention as soon as they are published.

Helen wishes you to send up, whenever convenient, a basket-cradle for little George. Charge the same to me.

If there are any sweet oranges in P., bro. Henry would like to have you send him a dollar's worth. You need not send them, if they are not sweet. The shaving soap you sent me is very greasy, and not fit to use.

Henry and all the rest of us are extremely desirous of seeing you, and we therefore cherish the hope that you will be able to make us a visit in a few days, with Catharine and little Anna.

Give my kindest regards to bro. Goodell, as well as to the other dear friends.

Yours, affectionately,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Brooklyn Ct
March 15

Single. 6

Mr. George W. Benson,
Providence,
R. I.